Increase in Air Fare

450. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal is lying pending with Government to hike air fares by over ten per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any demand from the Air Passengers Association of India that Indian Airlines should drop its proposal to hike air fares by over ten per cent immediately; and

(d) if so, what is Government's stand with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Indian Airlines has no proposal to increase its fares at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Invitation to foreign journalists by Department of Tourism

451. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to invite foreign journalists to remove the apprehension among foreign tourists regarding law ad order in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As a part of its continuing scheme the Department of Tourism invites foreign journalists, travel writers, photographers and other media personnel on familiarisation tours of different tourist places in the country. The articles published by the travel writers/journalists on their return not only give exposure to India's varied tourist attractions and also offset adverse publicity thereby dispelling apprehension in foreign tourists to plan their visits to India.

Development of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

452. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South India particularly Andhra Pradesh is neglected in Tourism;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to develop tourism in south and particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following travel circuits/destinations have been identified for intensive development in South India, including Andhra Pradesh:—

(i) Madras-Mammallapuram - Pondicherry;

(ii) Hyderabad-Nagarjunasagar- Tirupati;

(iii) Muttukadu beach;

(iv) Bekal-beach.

Fare hike from Calcutta to Sharjah

453 SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air fare from Calicut to Sharjah has been hiked twice during te recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation for the cancellation of fare hike; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This was done in accordance with resolution adopted at the IATA forum, and also in response to the situation arising from introduction of the scheme of partial convertibility of the Rupee.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The revision in air fares was necessary due to the factors mentioned above.

Disinvestment of India Tourism Development Corporation Properties

454. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC is in the process of disinvesting some of their prime properties by placing them in joint sector to improve tourism in the country; and

(b) whether such proposal has been accepted by Government and if so, when it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government have formulated a scheme wherein small groups of ITDC hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with reputed foreign hotel chains. The proposal for setting up such joint ventures has been approved in principle by the Government for early implementation.

Development of Renigunta Airport in Andhra Pradesh

455. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop the airport at Renigunta in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Airports Authority has plans to take up the following works subject to availability of resources, at Renigunta Airport (Tirupati Airport):—

(i) Expansion and strengthening of runway to 7500 ft.

(ii) Strengthening of taxi-track.

(iii) Widening and strengthening of apron.

(iv) Construction of new terminal building.

(c) Does not arise.

Choking of Anna Airport

456. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in *Hindu* dated 13-6-1992 under the caption "Anna airport getting choked";

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to increase the facilities at the immigration counters and at the baggage clearance permits; and

(c) what are the long term plans to meet the increase in foreign airlines flights in Anna International Airport at Madras?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steps have been taken to increase the number of immigration counters from 10 to 14 and to increase the length of conveyors to provide for additional baggage claim length.